

ST. JAMES' C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL, COLDWALTHAM

with Chuckleberries Pre School



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Enabling every child to thrive and succeed

10th October 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we move further into the new academic year, we are writing to inform you about the change to homework provision. As a Federation, Amberley and St. James' staff have carefully discussed and considered what type and quantity of homework we think is suitable to provide for our children, taking into account views that were expressed in parental surveys completed at the end of the last academic year.

As a Federation, we seek to implement learning that has true, measurable impact on the children's education and this includes homework. We have, in recent years, had a Federation focus of 'Promoting a Love of Reading and Inspiring a Reading Culture'; this approach was based on research and studies which highlighted that, within primary school, *daily reading is the single most effective way to have the most impact on children's learning and academic achievement*. We have been delighted with the way that parents/carers have supported the schools with this and we have seen the amount of reading, and range of genres being read, impacting on the children's wider education well.

We are aware that, for some parents/carers, a greater focus on other areas of learning is something they would appreciate being reflected in homework set. This includes Maths, Spellings and the wider foundation subjects. Therefore, we have adjusted our homework provision to take into account the feelings of parents as well as ensuring homework does not become onerous and fail to have true impact on learning.

Our homework provision aims for this academic year are that each child should:

- **read five times per week** - for younger children, we would expect reading to be done with an adult whilst older children should combine reading independently as well as with an adult. Children will have a Reading Record to support the recording of reading.
- **receive spellings appropriate for their age and stage** - the Federation is currently in the process of setting up Spelling Shed, a spelling programme which will improve the consistency of teaching and learning spellings across the schools; the programme is highly recommended and also provides good continuity for when children complete the RWI Phonics programme. More details about this will follow once the programme is fully set up. In the meantime, teachers will set spellings relevant to the children's wider learning - this may mean that children are set different spellings dependent on what will have the most impact.



- **receive Maths activities to support the learning and manipulation of mathematical facts** – to motivate and engage children with mathematical activities, teachers will use a range of online resources, such as TT Rockstars, etc. More details will be provided by your child's class teacher.

These will be non-negotiable and there will be an expectation that all children complete these homework tasks.

We are aware that some children do enjoy and thrive on projects at home and we would like to give those children the opportunity to do more **if they choose to do so**. Therefore, there will be some **optional** "Home Learning", where your child can choose from a wider range of curriculum-related work. The aim of this learning would be that you could work collaboratively with your child and that the tasks would be varied, e.g. an Art/DT project, a video, a recipe, etc. Parents/carers have shared that this helps them to feel more informed about what their child is learning about.

The optional homework will be set termly and will be shared via your child's class website page – if you are unable to find this, please speak to your child's class teacher who will be able to direct you to it. Please note that because this wider home learning is optional, whilst the teachers would welcome the children sharing it with them, it will not be marked or fed back on specifically.

We very much appreciate your support with this homework provision and trust that these arrangements will enable your child to flourish and progress with their learning.

Kindest regards,



Executive Headteacher, Arun Villages Federation, Amberley CE Primary School and St. James' CE Primary School, Coldwaltham